

Renewed 8/2/00

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**BAY-DELTA ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**CHARTER**

1. Official Designation: Bay-Delta Advisory Council (BDAC)
2. Purpose, Objectives, and Goals: The purpose of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council is to provide recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of California (Governor) in developing a long-term solution to address the underlying causes of problems affecting the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and its watershed (Bay-Delta Estuary) public values. These values include: water quality, protection of the Bay-Delta Estuary and its fish and wildlife resources; effective planning and operation of water export systems; and maintenance of Delta levees and channels.

Specific responsibilities of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council include:

- a. Recommend objectives to be met, including both the problems to be addressed and a specific set of objectives.
  - b. Recommend neutral evaluation criteria to measure the effectiveness of alternative solutions consistent with statutory and regulatory authorities.
  - c. Recommend specific solution alternatives to be evaluated in a formal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process carried out by one or more agencies.
  - d. Recommend the best solution alternative for implementation by the appropriate agencies, as part of the NEPA/CEQA environmental documentation process
3. Period of Time Necessary for the Advisory Committee and Termination Date

The Bay-Delta Advisory Council is expected to exist until such time as the NEPA/CEQA process is completed. It will terminate, however, 2 years from the date this charter is filed unless it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App.

4. Official to Whom the Advisory Committee Reports

The Advisory Committee reports through the Federal Ecosystem Directorate (FED) to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) and through the Water Policy Council to the Governor. The FED was created to coordinate Federal resource protection and management decisions in the Bay-Delta Estuary and its watershed and is comprised of the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish

and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

5. Administrative Support

The Bureau of Reclamation will provide funding for administrative and logistical support for the Bay-Delta Advisory Council.

6. Duties of the Advisory Committee

Duties of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council are solely advisory and are as outlined in paragraph 2 above.

7. Estimated Annual Operations Costs

Annual operating costs of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council are estimated to be approximately \$250,000, which includes about 2 person-years of staff support contributed by Federal and State agencies. The Department of the Interior and the State of California will make funds available through Federal and State appropriations.

8. Allowances

Members will serve without compensation for their services on the advisory council. Non-Federal and non-State members will be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by them in performing duties, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Section 5703.

9. Frequency of Meetings

The advisory council will meet quarterly or more frequently at the call of the Chairperson with the advance approval of the Designated Federal and State officials, who must also approve the agenda. Meetings of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council will be open to the public and will be announced in the Federal Register at least 15 days prior to each meeting.

A majority of the membership of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.


A summary report of each meeting of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council will be prepared for distribution to the membership and to others upon request. Detailed minutes of each meeting of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council as well as recommendations made and copies of all studies and reports received, issued, or approved in conjunction with the activities of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council will be available for public inspection and copying at the office of the Designated Federal and State Officials.

10. Membership

- a. Appointed Members: There will be approximately 25 to 35 members of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council. Members will be jointly selected by the Governor and the Secretary from nominations provided by the FED and the Water Policy Council and will be appointed by the Secretary. The committee will be comprised of a balanced complement of citizen-advisors representing California's agricultural, environmental, urban, and other affected interests.
- b. Vacancy: Whenever a vacancy occurs among Bay-Delta Advisory Council members, it will be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.
- c. Terms of Office: Members appointed under Paragraph 10.a, will serve until the Bay-Delta Advisory Council is disbanded, or at the pleasure of the Secretary and the Governor.
- d. Chairperson(s): A Chairperson(s) will be selected by the Secretary and the Governor.
- e. Removal of Members: If a member misses without good cause three consecutive, regularly scheduled meetings of the Bay-Delta Advisory Council, that member's membership will be terminated. Good cause will be determined by the Chairperson(s). If a membership is terminated in this manner, the Secretary and the Governor will designate another representative.

11. Designated Federal and State Officials

The Designated Federal Official will be appointed by the Secretary and the Designated State Official will be appointed by the Governor.

  
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Secretary of the Interior

JUN 6 1997

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Date

JUN 11 1997

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Date Charter Filed